

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9257

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: GOP DECISION TO TERMINATE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF
LINGUISTICS

1. PERUVIAN PATRON OF AND CLOSE COLLABORATOR WITH THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS (SIL) TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 9 THAT SIL HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION MIRANDA, STATING THAT PURSUANT TO A CABINET DECISION A "MULTI-SECTORAL" COMMISSION WAS BEING CONSTITUTED TO PREPARE FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF ALL SIL ACTIVITIES BY PERUVIANS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1977.

2. SOURCE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAS ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH SIL-PERU DIRECTOR TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF TURNING OVER SIL OPERATIONS TO PERUVIANS. ACCORDING TO WHAT MIN-EDUCATION DIRECTOR SUPERIOR CARDO TOLD SIL, MIRANDA HAS BEEN WILL IMPRESSED WITH SIL'S WORK AND HAS FAVORED A LONGER-TERM PHASE-DOWN; HE IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE INDICATED HIS PERSONAL REGRET AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE BY CABINET AND WAS NOT A MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATION. THE PERUVIAN FRIEND OF SIL TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN TERMINATION OF SIL PRESENCE.

3. GOP HAS THUS FAR CHOSE NOT TO PUBLICIZE SIL EXPULSION AND,
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ACCORDING TO SOURCE, MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAS EXPRESSED TO SIL HIS

PREFERENCE THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER PROCEED QUIETLY. IN A SEPARATE

MARCH 9 TELECON WITH EMBOFF, ANOTHER SAID THAT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC THE SIL DIRECTOR ABOUT SIL FUTURE AND WAS WRAPPED UP IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DIRECTOR DID NOT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ON SIL TERMINATION).

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BOTH SIL AND EMBASSY RECEIVED SOME ASSURANCE FROM GOP ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT SIL WAS STILL PERFORMING A NECESSARY FUNCTION IN PERU, THE GOP HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT SIL PRESENCE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH "REVOLUTIONARY" AND NATIONALIST PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH THE GOP IS REFRAINING FROM PUBLICIZING ITS DECISION, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT PREFERS TO AVOID ANOTHER POLITICAL CONTROVERSY FOR THE MOMENT, AT SOME POINT IT MAY WANT TO PRESENT SIL TERMINATION AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS TO "THE PEOPLE" AS REPRESENTED IN REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH THE GOVERNMENT'S PEASANT ORGANIZATION (CNA) AND THE NEW FRONT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR SIL EXPULSION FROM PERU, AS "HAVE SOME" ELEMENTS IN THE LEFTIST PRESS.
DEAN

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